

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 AID-05

/070 W

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R 131151Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 595

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

UNCLAS ABIDJAN 9702

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IV, CG

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT MOBUTU VISITS IVORY COAST

REF: KINSHASA 8407

1. PRESIDENT MOBUTU SESE SEKO OF CAIRE ARRIVED OCTOBER 11 FROM TOGO AND SENEGAL FOR WHAT WAS ORIGINALLY PLANNED TO BE TWO-DAY PRIVATE VISIT TO IVORY COAST. MOBUTU FLEW DIRECTLY TO YAMOOUSSOUKRO, HOUPHOUET-BOIGN'S HOME TOWN IN THE INTERIOR OF THE COUNTRY AND THE SITE PREFERRED BY THE GOIC PRESIDENT FOR HOLDING TALKS IN GREATER PRIVACY.

2. MOBUTU WAS ACCOMPANIED BY A DELEGATION OF ABOUT FORTY PERSONS, INCLUDING SETI YALE AND MBUZE NSOMI, COUNSELORS TO THE GOZ PRESIDENCY, AND AMBASSADOR BOKOTA W'EKILA, DIRECTOR OF PROTOCOL AT THE PRESIDENCY. ON THE IVORIAN SIDE HOUPHOUET WAS ACCOMPANIED BY SIX MINISTERS NOTABLY INCLUDING MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH JOHN BAPTISTE MOCKEY, AS WELL AS LOCAL OFFICIALS. FOREIGN MINISTER USHER WAS NOT PRESENT, ALTHOUGH HE RETURNED TO IVORY COAST FROM UNGA OCTOBER 9.

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3. IN PRESS STATEMENT ON ARRIVAL, MOBUTU SAID HIS

"VISIT OF FRIENDSHIP" WAS TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH HOUPHOUET ON INTERNATIONAL AND AFRICAN PROBLEMS AT A TIME WHEN AFRICA WAS FOREMOST IN WORLD HEADLINES. LOCAL PRESS WENT ON TO SPECULATE THAT SOUTHERN AFRICA WAS CERTAINLY THE "BURNING SUBJECT" AND THAT ZAIRE AND IVORY COAST DO NOT HOLD FUNDAMENTALLY DIFFERENT POSITIONS.

4. MOBUTU AND HOUPHOUET ALSO TOOK TIME OUT FROM THEIR DISCUSSIONS TO VISIT THE PRESIDENTIAL PLANTATIONS AND OTHER AGRICULTURAL AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN THE "MODEL TOWN" OF YAMOUSSOUKRO.

5. IN AN UNEXPECTED CHANGE OF PLANS, MOBUTU'S STAY IN IVORY COAST WAS PROLONGED FOR 24 HOURS WITH THE TWO PRESIDENTS TRAVELING TO ABIDJAN FOR THE LAST DAY. MOBUTU'S DEPARTURE NOW PLANNED FOR OCTOBER 14. COOKE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ABIDJA09702
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760384-1008
From: ABIDJAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761059/aaaabyoq.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 KINSHASA 8407
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ullricre
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 MAY 2004 by DuboseBM>; APPROVED <21 DEC 2004 by ullricre>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT MOBUTU VISITS IVORY COAST
TAGS: PFOR, IV, CG, XJ, (MOBUTU SESE SEKO), (HOUPHET-BOIGNEY, FELIX)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006